



Aruba's Monument Bureau plans an exciting day for all ages with a "Paseo Monumental"

Island visitors and residents are invited to enjoy a walking tour of Oranjestad this coming Sunday, September 10, that will feature not only historical lectures about Aruba's landmark buildings, but fun and informative events that will take place throughout the day marking the tenth anniversary celebration of Aruba's Monument Bureau.

Twenty-four landmark buildings will be the stops along the way from a tour starting at 9:00 AM. Festivities will officially begin with an opening ceremony scheduled for 8:30 AM with the Minister of Culture, Ramon Lee in the plaza that stands before the historic Ecury Complex and the offices of the Monument Bureau. This is the Plaza Henriquez, and is located behind the Kong Hing Supermarket in town.

A tour of what will be Aruba's Natural Museum of History and Archaeology opening in the spring of 2007 will be held at 9:30 AM and again at 2:30 PM.

From there the tour will take a route to the courthouse where a special reenactment of an historic case that took place in 1903 will take place from 10:00 AM until approximately noon, and will be repeated at 2 P.M. The "Pedro Mata Kwater" or "Pedro Kill Four" case is based on a book about justice in Aruba by Sissi Schwengle and is a unique opportunity to see the legal system at work. Actual judges, prosecuting attorneys, and court personnel will take part in the demonstration and interpretation of the notorious case. Due to limited space, tickets, which are free, must be obtained in advance on Sunday.

The tour will continue through the town with a history of the many landmark buildings on the Wilhelminastraat, and the government buildings on L.G. Smith Boulevard. The next special presentation along the way will be at the Stanhuis, or City Hall, on Wilhelminastraat, where marriages take place. This will begin at approximately 12:30 PM until 2:00, with a history of one of the first buildings to be restored by the Monument Bureau.

Aruba's Historical Museum, located in Fort Zoutman, will also participate in the day's celebrations by remaining open from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Senora Titi Tromp of the museum board will conduct lectures about the island's history, refreshments and native island snacks will be offered for sale, and Eddy Tec will perform traditional island music.

The tour will end at the historic Museo Numismatico, Aruba's Money Museum, which is managed by the Odor family, and relates the history of the region through the development of its money. The museum houses their personal collection of over 40,000 items, in 110 collections including first proofs from over 150 countries and historical coins over 2000 years old from around the world, in the building that was the island's first bank. The front and back courtyards of the museum will be the site of a flea market, and various folkloric entertainments from 2:30 until 4:30 in the afternoon.

Those wishing to learn about Aruba's landmark buildings and history are invited to join the walking tour, or visit the various specialized events taking place this coming Sunday. It promises to be an exciting and enlightening day for the entire family.

